

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02938 081609Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5294

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 2938

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, AU, PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: CROATIAN EMIGRE GATHERING IN CARINTHIA IN MAY

A. BELGRADE 1003

B. VIENNA 1898

1. CROATIAN EMIGRE GROUPS LIVING IN AUSTRIA ARE PLANNING TRADITIONAL ANNUAL GATHERING IN BLEIBURG NEAR SLOVENIAN BORDER ON MAY 11 (MOTHER'S DAY) TO MARK EQUIVALENT OF CROATIAN NATIONAL DAY. CEREMONIES REPORTEDLY WILL CONSIST OF OPEN-AIR CATHOLIC MASS, FOLK SINGING AND DANCING, ETC.

2. AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE WARNED ORGANIZERS OF EVENT NOT TO USE OCCASION FOR POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA AND NOT TO INVITE CROATIANS LIVING OUTSIDE AUSTRIA TO PARTICIPATE. AUSTRIANS FEEL THEIR MOVE TO RESTRAIN ORGANIZERS OF EVENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR OCCASION; MORE DRASTIC ACTION OF BANNING GATHERING WITHOUT STRONG JUSTIFICATION WOULD VIOLATE AUSTRIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY. FOREGOING AUSTRIAN RATIONALE ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HERE BY GOA OFFICIALS; YUGOSLAVS NOT UNEXPECTEDLY CONSIDER AUSTRIAN STEPS INADEQUATE AND HAVE CALLED ON GOA TO
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BAN GATHERING. BUCHANAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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